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The portion of the book dealing with railways must be especially commended. The author here displays greater familiarity with American conditions than in any other part of the work, and, as a result, his conclusions are comparatively free from bias. Professor Chapman presents, more clearly than has ever been done before, the conditions which have brought about the wide divergence of railway standards in the two countries.

THOMAS CONWAY, JR.

University of Pennsylvania.

Chancellor, William Estabrook, and Hewes, Fletcher W. *The United States: A History of Three Centuries, 1607-1904.* Vol. I. Pp. xxiii, 533. Price, \$3.75. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904.

This is one of the more pretentious works on American history now claiming the attention of a certain class of readers. According to the publishers' announcement, "It is the purpose of the history to present, in a comprehensive and carefully proportioned narrative, an account of the beginnings of the national existence and of the successive stages in the evolution of our distinctive national qualities and institutions. The record covers the events from 1607 to the close of 1904." The first "part" (volume) brings the narrative down to the close of the seventeenth century. After such an announcement the reader would expect the opening chapter to deal with the founding of Jamestown, but he is surprised to find ninety-five pages devoted to discovery, the rivalry of the nations, and the Indians. Nine more "parts" are to follow.

At the outset the authors challenge the reader's attention with the novel "Historical Perspective," which he is invited to survey. "Part" one is itself divided into four parts—Population and Politics, War, Industry, and Civilization. The lines of cleavage cannot be sharply drawn. There is overlapping, and events closely related are almost totally dissociated in the mind of the reader, or he is burdened with two accounts of the same thing. The causes of Bacon's Rebellion are set forth in one place with a brief account of the result; in another more details of the fighting are given. In the first we are told that Bacon died of dysentery; in the second, "of disease, probably; of poison, some said." To be sure that the reader is impressed with the "Historical Perspective," it is given in the form of a double page diagram. Here "Civilization" divides "Politics" from "Industry" and "War," though most people probably would suppose that it was intimately wound up with all of them, especially the first two. The American school boy can tell of the New England Confederation, but here he will find no mention of it, either in the text or in the "Perspective."

It is hard to treat such a work with the seriousness it deserves. It would hardly be correct to say that it makes no contribution to historical literature; in parts three and four, "Industry" and "Civilization," a good many interesting facts have been brought together, but it would be difficult to say who will profit by them. Even the general reader who indulges in a ten volume work on American history probably would feel more secure in his reading, if the statements were backed up with something more than a curious collocation

of primary and secondary authorities, along with others of no authority whatever, put in the back of the book, with very few specific references.

DAVID Y. THOMAS.

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Channing, Edward. *A History of the United States.* Vol. I, 1000-1660. Pp. xi, 550. Price \$2.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905.

The students of American history have long looked forward to the appearance of Professor Channing's *magnum opus*. The first volume well rewards their interest, for in scholarship the work easily leads any other attempt of the kind. The style is clear, pleasing and admirably simple. If it lacks the literary flavor of some of the more popular histories, there is the compensating charm of deep knowledge and plain-spoken truth.

Professor Channing's preface tells faithfully what he has done,—not what he intended to do, but failed. After reading the volume one can find no better language to describe its method and purpose than the author's own. "The guiding idea," he says, "is to view the subject as the record of an evolution." He has "tried to see in the annals of the past the story of living forces, always struggling onward and upward toward that which is better and higher in human conception." He does not relate merely the annals of the past, but describes "the development of the American people," treating the growth of the nation "from the political, military, institutional, industrial and social points of view." Instead of tracing the story of each isolated political unit from the point of view of the antiquarian, Professor Channing has "considered the colonies as a part of the English empire, as having sprung from that political fabric, and as having simply pursued a course of institutional evolution unlike that of the branch of the English race which remained behind."

Although, on the whole, the transmission of European civilization to America is very faithfully portrayed, we are not convinced that the author's method of treatment is correct, when he begins the history with the discoveries by the Northmen. It seems to us that the reader's mind should not be first fixed upon America, which is only the dwelling place to which Europeans are destined to come. Rather, the European conditions should be first sketched, which made the discovery of America a logical event, and the state of European civilization which was soon to be modified in America. This is all done, later, in Professor Channing's book, but as a matter of effective literary form we believe in the suggested method. Another slight blemish is the rather unsympathetic treatment of the early Spanish explorers (pp. 71, 98). After Mr. Bourne's very sympathetic treatment in his "Spain in America," this treatment, moderate as it is when compared with the traditional accounts—grates a little upon us. Perhaps it is only because we expect from Mr. Channing such perfect fairness and such catholic judgment. There are a number of instances in which he differs from the recognized authorities, but his own reasons are so cogent that one rather admires his daring than questions his good judgment.